

Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

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R 161353Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UK

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE245518, 16 OCTOBER 1975

1. AFTER RIPLEY/RAMSBOTHAM PHONE CONVERSATION, RINZLER/SANDERSON MEETING, BRITISH EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM LONDON THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS WOULD CONSIDER FAVORABLY A REQUEST FOR FREE OR REDUCED FARES FOR BRITISH FOLK ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL. THIS WOULD APPLY TO HEADINGTON TEAM LED BY S.A. MATTHEWS AND 14 OTHER INDIVIDUAL FOLK ARTISTS SELECTED BY A.L. LLOYD AND LLOYD HIMSELF.

2. THIS PROCESS FOLLOWS BRITISH APPLICATION OF IATA RESOLUTION 200G. AFTER FOLK TEAMS SUBMIT REQUEST TO BRITISH AIRWAYS, BA APPLIES TO GOVERNMENT FOR DIRECTIVE TO COMPLY. WHEN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUCH DIRECTIVE, BA "MAY BE PREPARED" TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY. AT LEAST ONE OTHER COUNTRY BELIEVED TO BE USING THIS METHOD TO PROVIDE ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS.

3. USIS REQUESTED TO INFORM MATTHEWS AND LLOYD OF ABOVE. THEY SHOULD APPLY TO CHIEF BRITISH AIRWAYS TICKET OFFICE IN LONDON FOR FREE TICKETS. ARRIVAL WASHINGTON JULY 4 DESIRABLE BUT SMITHSONIAN AGREEABLE TO THEIR ARRIVAL JULY 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, OR 5TH, AT WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE,

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PHILADELPHIA OR NEW YORK, IN ONE, TWO OR THREE COMPONENTS

IF AIRLINE CONSIDERS THIS MORE FEASIBLE. TRUST MATTHEWS
AND LLOYD WILL REPORT BACK TO USIS IN CASE ANY ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT NEEDED.

4. POST-FESTIVAL TOUR CANNOT BE FUNDED. PARTICIPANTS
CAN RETURN JULY 12TH OR 13TH. ROBINSON

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